

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-01 /005 W

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O R 200806Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3852

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 12760

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE CITY OF TAKEO CONTINUES TO BE A TARGET OF ENEMY ATTACKS. COMMUNIST OFFENSIVES WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE NORTHERN PERIMETER OF THE CITY ON TUESDAY, AND GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT DROPPED SUPPLIES TO THE DEFENDING FORCES.
2. THE KHMER HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD REOCCUPIED THE TOWN OF KOMPONG KANTUOT AND OPENED PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 38 FROM TAKHMAU TO KOMPONG KANTOUT.
3. GOVERNMENT FORCES ON NATIONAL ROUTE FIVE RECEIVED SEVERAL ENEMY ATTACKS SUNDAY NIGHT AND MONDAY MORNING. THE HIGHWAY, WHICH LEADS FROM PHNOM PENH TO BATTAMBANG, CONTINUES TO BE CUT BY THE ENEMY.
4. TROOPS ENGAGED IN ROAD-CLEARING OPERATIONS ON NATIONAL ROUTE FOUR RECEIVED ENEMY FIRE ON TUESDAY. ENEMY SHELLINGS ALSO OCCURRED.

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5. A NAVAL SUPPLY CONVOY ARRIVED AT SIEMREAP ON MONDAY, HAVING

TRAVERSED THE TON LE SAP FROM PHNOM PENH. THE BOATS ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY DURING THEIR VOYAGE.

6. MAJOR-GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE KHMER ARMED FORCES, ANNOUNCED THAT THE T-28 AIRCRAFT WHICH BOMBED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON MONDAY WAS PILOTED BY KHMER AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT PECH LIM KUON. GENERAL FERNANDEZ DESCRIBED THE BOMBING AS AN ISOLATED ACT CARRIED OUT BY ONE MAN WITHOUT THE COMPLICITY OF THE AIR FORCE. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL'S ANNOUNCEMENT THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND NINE WERE WOUNDED BY THE BOMBS. MARSHAL LON NOL, PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, WAS IN THE PALACE AT THE TIME OF THE BOMBING, BUT WAS UNHURT.

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